

U. S. Families and their Purchasing Power in 1953

Billions
of Dollars

50 —

FAMILY INCOME

40 —

30 —

20 —

10 —

0

UNDER \$1,000 \$1,000 TO \$1,999 \$2,000 TO \$2,999 \$3,000 TO \$3,999 \$4,000 TO \$4,999 \$5,000 TO \$5,999 \$6,000 TO \$6,999 \$7,000 TO \$7,999 \$8,000 TO \$8,999 \$9,000 TO \$9,999 \$10,000 TO \$14,999 \$15,000 AND OVER



FEDERAL INCOME TAX

Millions
of Units

10 —

NUMBER OF FAMILIES

5 —

0

UNDER \$1,000 \$1,000 TO \$1,999 \$2,000 TO \$2,999 \$3,000 TO \$3,999 \$4,000 TO \$4,999 \$5,000 TO \$5,999 \$6,000 TO \$6,999 \$7,000 TO \$7,999 \$8,000 TO \$8,999 \$9,000 TO \$9,999 \$10,000 TO \$14,999 \$15,000 AND OVER



FAMILY INCOME BRACKETS

Income Distribution in the United States, 1950-53

INCOME of American families was \$272 billion in 1954, or slightly more than the aggregate for 1953. Its stability reflected the various forces, reviewed in previous issues of the *Survey*, that supported the flow of personal income during the recent business readjustment. Because of the reduction in Federal individual income tax rates, income after Federal tax liability increased by \$4 billion over 1953, reaching a total of \$245½ billion.

This represented an average after-tax family income of \$4,820 in 1954. The term family is used to include unattached individuals as well as multiperson families in this article, except where it is necessary to distinguish these two groups. The relative increase over 1953 in average income was smaller than that in total income because of a rise in the

This article brings up-to-date the size distributions of family income that were initiated by the Office of Business Economics in a supplement to the *Survey of Current Business*, "Income Distribution in the United States, by Size, 1944-50." (U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., 1953, price 65 cents.) It presents revised estimates for 1950 and new estimates for 1951 and 1953. Their derivation is described briefly at the end of the article. For a detailed discussion of definitions and sources and methods, and also for back-year data, the reader is referred to the Income Distribution supplement.

number of family units from 50½ million to almost 51 million. Before-tax average income was \$5,330 in 1954, differing little from 1953.

Taking into account the moderate rise shown by available price indexes for consumer goods and services, it appears that the real after-tax income of the average American family was about the same in the 2 years.

The real purchasing power of the average American family increased steadily over

most of the postwar period through 1953. As compared with 1929, which provides a convenient prewar benchmark, the increase in average real income after Federal income taxes was roughly 30 percent. On a per capita basis, the increase was higher—about 40 percent—since the size of the family was larger 25 years ago than at the present time.

Income Distribution in 1953

The frontispiece and table 1 show the 1953 distribution of American families and of their total income by broad family income brackets. These figures are preliminary. The last comprehensive source material regarding the size distribution of income refers to 1951 and only sample data are available for 1953. Similarly, the estimates of tax liability are tentative. They are extrapolated from 1951 tax return information on the basis of changes in statutory tax rates and estimates of total tax liability derived from tax collections.

1954 distribution similar

Although these estimates apply specifically to 1953, they can be taken as representative also of the broad structure of the consumer market in 1954. This is suggested by the similarity of the income figures for the 2 years, both on an aggregate and average basis, and by the stability in the relative distribution of income throughout the postwar period, which is one of the major findings of this report. However, the impact of the Federal income tax was somewhat smaller in 1954 than in 1953 because of reductions averaging about 10

percent in statutory tax rates and because of revisions introduced in the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

The bars in the bottom section of the chart show the number of families in each income range. The concentration of families is heaviest in the middle income ranges, although a considerable number are to be found also in the lower income groups.

The largest number of families are in the \$3,000 to \$4,000 bracket. The \$4,000 to \$5,000 range included the average (median) family income, estimated at \$4,410 in 1953; half of the families had incomes below and half incomes above this amount. The income range between \$5,000 and \$6,000 included the average (mean) income of \$5,370.

Each of these three groups contained about 7 million families. Thus, 21 million, or over 40 percent of the Nation's 50½ million consumer units had incomes from \$3,000 to \$6,000. Almost 30 percent had incomes of \$6,000 or more, and about the same proportion received incomes of less than \$3,000. Certain factors that should be taken into account in evaluating the position of low income groups, such as the preponderance of unattached individuals, will be reviewed later.

As can be seen from the top panel of the chart, the distribution of income was pitched higher on the income scale

NOTE.—SELMA F. GOLDSMITH IS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL INCOME DIVISION, OFFICE OF BUSINESS ECONOMICS.

than the distribution of families. The largest amount of income per \$1,000 range was received by the group with incomes between \$5,000 and \$6,000, and a substantial proportion of the income total accrued to the middle income brackets adjacent to this group. The chart shows concentration of incomes also in the upper income ranges; these, of course, accounted for a much larger proportion of the total consumer market in terms of incomes than in terms of the number of families.

Impact of income tax

Because of taxation, the distribution of purchasing power differed from the distribution of before-tax incomes. In this report allowance has been made for the impact of the Federal individual income tax, which was the most important factor in this connection.

In 1953, total Federal individual income tax liability was about \$20 billion, or 11 percent of before-tax income. Capital gains taxes are excluded from this total because the gains themselves are not part of personal income. A larger than proportionate share of the income tax was paid by the high income groups. For instance, families in the \$15,000 and over income bracket received approximately 15 percent of before-tax income but accounted for about 35 percent of total Federal income tax liability. Effective Federal income tax rates (tax liability expressed as a percent of total before-tax income) increased from a negligible proportion in the low brackets to 25 percent in the \$15,000 and over group.

In the interpretation of these rates several points should be kept in mind. In the first place, the \$15,000 and over group, which is not broken down further for 1953 because of lack of adequate information, represents the combination of income brackets for which the incidence of the Federal income tax is widely different. It is in these brackets that the graduation of this tax is most substantial and units high up on the scale are subject to tax rates that are much heavier than the

turns. Thus, the effective rates on personal income shown here are somewhat lower than those derived directly from tax returns. Further, these effective rates represent averages on the incomes of families differing widely with respect to composition and size and hence with respect to tax liability. Finally, the rates are averages on total income before deductions and exemptions, and not the steeper marginal rates, implicit in these averages, to which increments of income are subject.

Table 2.—Families and Their Incomes by Family Income Level, 1947 and 1953

Family personal income (before income taxes)	Number of families and unattached individuals (millions)		Family personal income (billions of dollars)		Percent distribution			
	1947	1953	1947	1953	Number		Income	
					1947	1953	1947	1953
Under \$1,000.....	3.7	2.9	2.0	1.4	8	8	1	1
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	7.4	5.4	11.2	8.2	16	11	6	3
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	8.5	6.5	21.2	15.8	19	13	12	6
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	8.9	7.4	30.0	25.0	19	16	16	10
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	5.7	7.3	25.6	32.5	13	14	14	13
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	2.5	2.2	18.0	14.8	5	12	10	13
\$6,000-\$6,999.....	2.1	2.3	20.3	21.8	7	12	11	16
\$7,000-\$7,999.....	2.2	1.8	18.4	14.2	6	10	10	16
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	1.2	2.3	14.3	27.5	3	4	3	10
\$15,000 and over.....	1.8	1.5	22.1	42.3	2	3	12	16
Total.....	44.7	50.6	184.8	271.5	100	100	100	100

Source: Office of Business Economics, U. S. Department of Commerce.

For the broad income groups shown, the impact of the Federal income tax modifies the pattern of the before-tax income distribution but does not change its general outline. However, if the \$15,000 and over income group could be broken down further, it would become evident that families in successively higher positions on the income scale experience a marked progressive reduction in their share of total after-tax purchasing power as compared with their share of total before-tax income. In 1951, for example, families in the \$50,000 and over income groups received 3½ percent of total before-tax income but accounted for only 2½ percent of after-tax purchasing power.

Broad income groups

Additional light is thrown on consumer income and purchasing power if the size distribution data are expressed in a manner that serves to summarize the income position of the Nation's families relative to each other. This is done in the accompanying chart in which families have been ranked according to the size of their before-tax income and divided into five groups of equal number. For each group, and also for the top 5 percent, the chart shows its percentage share of total before-tax income, of total Federal individual income tax liability, and of total after-tax income.

Families with incomes under \$2,300 comprised the lowest fifth of consumer units in 1953 and received about 5 percent of total before-tax income. The next two groups also accounted for proportions of before-tax income that were smaller than their relative numbers. The remaining two groups received a larger than proportionate share, with the top fifth accounting for almost 45 percent of the income total.

The graduated character of the Federal individual income tax is shown by this presentation also. The lowest fifth of

Table 1.—Distribution of Families, Family Income, and Federal Income Tax Liability, by Family Income Level in 1953

Family personal income (before income taxes)	Families and unattached individuals		Family personal income			Federal individual income tax liability	
	Number (millions)	Percent	Amount (billions of dollars)	Percent	Average income (dollars)	Percent of family income ¹	Percent of total liability
Under \$1,000.....	3.0	6	1.4	1	560	6	0
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	3.4	11	8.2	3	1,550	3.0	1
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	8.4	13	16.3	8	2,540	3.0	8
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	7.4	13	26.0	13	3,513	6.0	8
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	7.2	14	32.6	13	4,490	7.0	7
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	6.3	12	34.3	13	5,470	8.5	10
\$6,000-\$6,999.....	4.5	9	25.9	10	6,170	9.5	9
\$7,000-\$7,999.....	3.2	6	24.2	9	7,470	10.0	8
\$8,000-\$8,999.....	2.0	4	17.3	6	8,400	10.0	6
\$9,000-\$9,999.....	1.8	3	12.6	6	9,460	11.0	6
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	2.3	4	37.4	16	12,000	12.0	11
\$15,000 and over.....	1.6	3	42.8	15	26,310	24.6	35
Total.....	44.7	100	271.5	100	4,376	11.9	100

1. Rounded to nearest ½ percent.

Source: Office of Business Economics, U. S. Department of Commerce.

average for the group. In 1951, for instance, families in the \$50,000 and over group were subject to an effective rate of 40 percent as compared with a rate of 24 percent for the \$15,000 and over group as a whole.

Secondly, personal income is defined to include elements that are not taxable, such as certain types of income in kind and transfer payments; also for various reasons other forms of personal income are not fully reported on income tax re-

consumer units was responsible for 1 percent of total tax liability, in sharp contrast to the top fifth which accounted for 64 percent. The relative payments of the top group would be higher if the portion of the Federal income tax relating to capital gains had been included.

The effect of the Federal income tax can be seen by comparing the proportions of before- and after-tax incomes. For all but the top group, percentage shares of after-tax income were somewhat larger than those of before-tax

income. In contrast the relative share of the top fifth as a whole was reduced moderately as a consequence of the tax.

Within this group the effect of the Federal income tax becomes more marked at successively higher points on the income scale. For instance, the proportion of the top 5 percent of families comprising units with incomes over \$12,100 was reduced from almost 21 to 18 percent, or by one-eighth. Even more substantial reductions are found in yet higher income ranges.

Changes in Income Distribution, 1947-53

Most of the postwar period was characterized by an upswing of money incomes which reflected in part the advance in the price level. From 1947 to 1953 total family income, both on a before- and after-tax basis, rose by almost 60 percent. Average current dollar family income, shown in the accompanying chart, rose by about 30 percent, as the number of families increased one-eighth over the period.

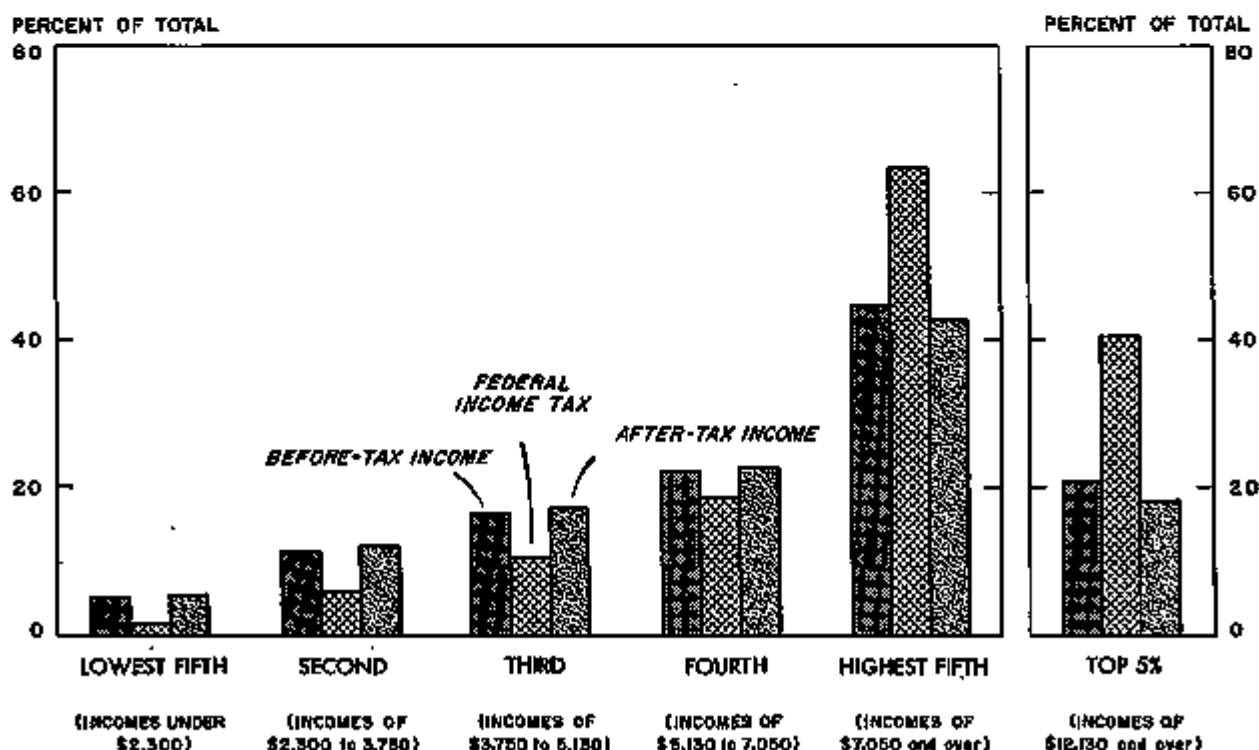
Current dollar incomes

Table 2, which is on a before-tax basis, shows that the 1947-53 increase in income was widely distributed and resulted in a broad shift of families from the income ranges under \$4,000 into higher income brackets, and that a similar

shift occurred also in the distribution of total income. Thus the number of families with incomes of less than \$4,000 decreased by one-fifth. In contrast, the number with incomes over \$4,000 increased by more than 70 percent and the total amount of income in this range increased by more than 80 percent. As a consequence of the general upward shift, the largest amount of income per \$1,000 range was found in the \$5,000 to \$6,000 bracket in 1953, as compared with the \$3,000 to \$4,000 bracket in the 1947 distribution.

In terms of the major types of consumer groups included in the overall distribution, it is found that the upward shift between the two terminal years of the comparison reflected mainly the experience of the nonfarm groups. The income of farm operator families underwent considerable fluctuations

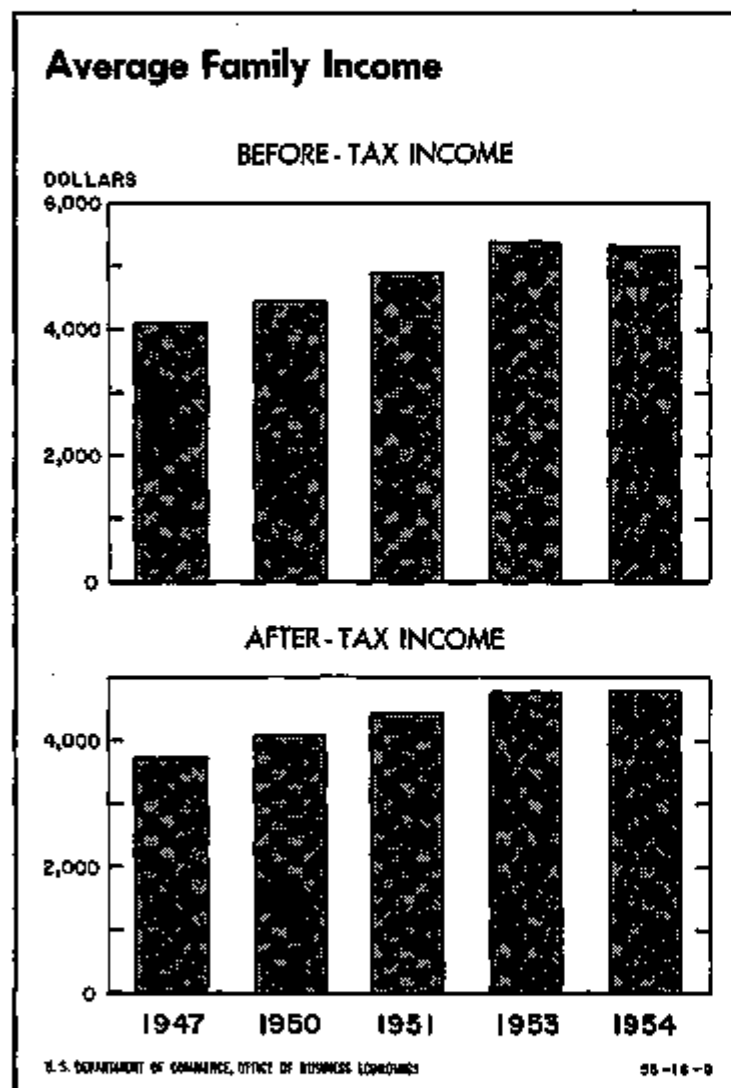
Distribution of Family Income, Federal Income Tax, and After-Tax Income in 1953



during this period, and after reaching very high levels both in 1948 and in 1951 declined thereafter.

Real incomes

Although in part the increase in family income from 1947 to 1953 reflected the rise in prices, the growth of real incomes was also substantial over the period. In terms of aggregate amounts, real income (measured in constant dollars) increased by one-quarter, both on a before- and after-tax basis, and the increase in real income per family was about 10 percent.



It is apparent that an allowance for the changing purchasing power of the dollar would greatly dampen the upward shift of family units and dollar incomes that is shown in table 2. However, the constant dollar figures indicate that there occurred an upward shift on the real income scale also,

although it was more moderate. This increase in the number of relatively well-to-do families is significant from the standpoint of evaluating the structure of consumer demand since changes in patterns of spending are to a large extent dependent on changes in the size of real income.

Relative income changes

The relative extent to which different income groups have shared in the rise of income that occurred in the postwar period is shown in the accompanying chart and in table 3, in which percentage shares of income received by successive fifths of consumer units are given for selected years. The essential stability in shares of before-tax income for the past decade is clearly shown. Only slight shifts are apparent, such as the fractional increase in the relative share of the three middle groups and the correspondingly small reduction in the share of the top fifth. Seen against the background of the major changes in the economy that have occurred since 1944, including demobilization and reconversion, the postwar inflation, and the Korean conflict, the stability of the relative income distribution in this period is a finding of major interest.¹

It should be emphasized that the stability in relative income distribution shown by these figures does not mean that all individual families kept their same relative position on the income scale as incomes increased. New family units were formed and older ones disappeared, and many families that continued throughout the decade shifted their position in relation to one another at the same time as the distribution as a whole shifted upward along with the rise in average incomes.

After-tax relative income shares, shown in the right section of table 3, were also essentially stable from 1950 to 1953. (Corresponding after-tax estimates have not been prepared for earlier years.) Rates of individual income tax have changed over this period, and have resulted in changes in its graduation. These changes, however, have not been large enough to modify significantly the relative impact of the tax on the broad income groups shown in the table, and a more detailed analysis would be necessary to bring out their differential effects.

The relative size distribution of income during the postwar period differs from the patterns observed for the 1930's and 1920's. Comprehensive data for these earlier periods covering all years and all income ranges are not available, but such information as exists indicates that the relative share of the upper income groups has been significantly lower in recent years than in the prewar period.

The reduction has apparently reflected two factors: First, a decrease in the relative importance in the income total of types of income—such as dividends—which accrue in large proportions to the upper income groups; and second, a reduction in dispersion within major income types, particularly wages and salaries. The postwar data show considerable stability in the proportions of the major income types and also in the dispersion of wages and salaries, and are in harmony, therefore, with the stability in the relative size distribution of total family income in this period.

1. The pattern of stability holds also for the nonfarm multiperson family group taken by itself. This distribution differs from the overall distribution mainly in level. The income distribution of nonfarm families is placed higher on the income scale than that of farm operator families and unattached individuals; the two lowest fifths of nonfarm families receive somewhat higher proportions of the total income according to nonfarm families than the corresponding percentages shown in table 3. The two top groups account for somewhat lower shares.

Family Groups and Individuals

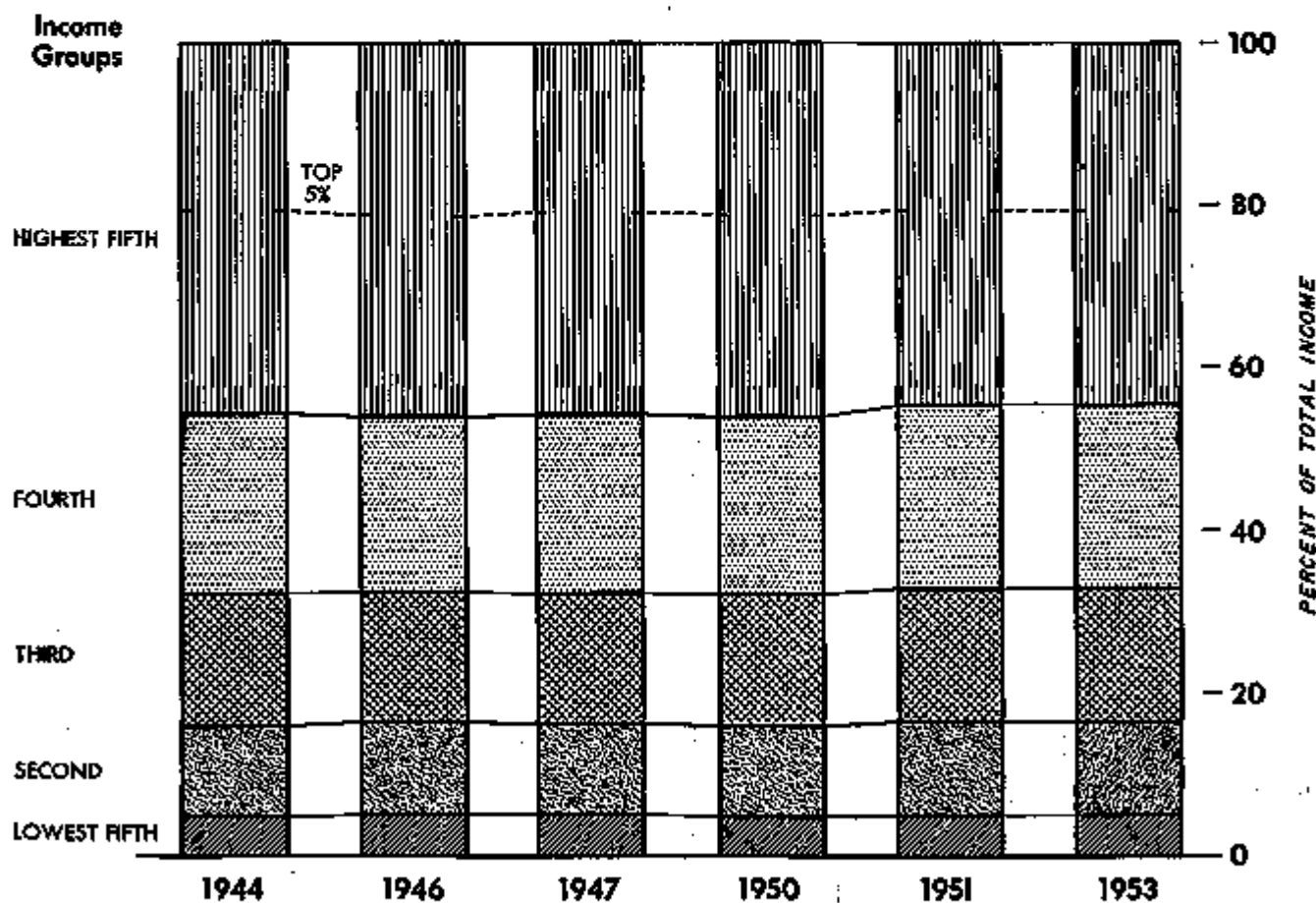
The great bulk of the 50½ million consumer units in 1953 consisted of nonfarm families. Comprising all units of two or more persons other than the farm group, they numbered more than 35½ million. Farm operator families—all families operating farms whether tenant- or owner-operators—totaled about 5½ million. This group includes full-time farmers as well as families whose farming operations represented only secondary pursuits. Unattached individuals, consisting of persons not living with relatives, numbered 9½ million. About three-fifths of them lived in their own dwelling units, and the remainder as lodgers or servants in private homes or in boarding houses and hotels.

Summary data relating to these three broad groups are shown in table 4. The nonfarm family group received 84 percent of total income. Its average income was by far the highest—\$6,390 as compared with \$3,460 for farm operator families, and \$2,630 for unattached individuals.

In the light of these averages, it is not surprising to find marked differences in the distribution by income size brackets among the three groups. Table 5 shows the predominance in the lower income ranges of unattached individuals and farm operator families. Of the 8 million consumer units with incomes under \$2,000, 4 million were individuals and 2 million were farm families. Nonfarm families predominated in the middle and upper income ranges. For example, they comprised more than 17 million of the 20 million consumer units in the brackets between \$4,000 and \$7,500, and 8 million of the 8½ million in the range above \$7,500.

The disparity in the three income distributions is shown also by the percentage calculations in table 5. Among nonfarm families only 6 percent are estimated to have had personal incomes under \$2,000, and fewer than 30 percent received incomes under \$4,000. For farm families, the corresponding percentages were 37 and 72, and for individuals

Percent Distribution of Before-Tax Family Income



46 and 83. In contrast, the proportions of nonfarm families in the middle and upper income brackets were much higher than those for farm families and individuals.

Low income groups

These differences among the three component income distributions throw additional light on the significance of the overall data. In particular, they permit a partial evaluation of the economic position of consumer units in the low brackets of the income scale.

Table 3.—Distribution of Before- and After-Tax Family Income, 1944-53 (Percent)

Quintile	Family personal income					Income after Federal individual income tax liability		
	1944	1946	1947	1950	1951	1950	1951	1953
Lowest.....	4.8	5.0	5.0	4.8	5.0	5.0	5.4	5.4
2.....	16.8	11.1	11.0	10.0	11.3	11.3	11.9	12.0
3.....	18.2	10.0	10.0	10.1	10.6	10.6	10.9	17.2
4.....	22.2	21.8	22.0	22.1	22.3	22.3	22.7	22.8
Highest.....	45.8	48.1	48.0	43.1	44.8	44.8	42.7	42.0
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Top 5 percent.....	20.7	21.3	20.0	21.4	20.7	20.7	18.4	18.2

Source: Office of Business Economics, U. S. Department of Commerce.

While these brackets include large numbers whose living standards are inadequate, the total number in these brackets may give an exaggerated view of the extent to which this is the case. It is necessary to take account of special characteristics which make the income of many low income recipients an imperfect measure of their actual economic status.

The requirements of individuals, for instance, are smaller than those of typical multiperson families because income is not usually shared with other household members. Also, individuals include large numbers—mostly young persons—who were not in active economic life for all of the year and whose part-year earnings, which are reflected in the statistics, are not an adequate measure of their actual command over goods and services during the year.

The following figures are suggestive of the nature of the correction necessary to allow for differential requirements. In 1953, when income per family (farm and nonfarm) averaged \$6,000, the per capita income of these families was \$1,680 as compared with an average of \$2,630 for individ-

uals. Thus, on a per capita basis, the relative position of families and individuals is actually reversed. Undoubtedly the per capita figures give too favorable an impression of the relative position of individuals since they do not take into account economies of family living, differences in the adult-versus-child composition between the two groups, and the higher rates of taxation to which many individuals are subject. Nevertheless, they indicate that a substantial allowance for differential needs and responsibilities is in order in evaluating the income distribution of this group.

Table 5.—Major Groups of Consumer Units by Family Income Level in 1953

Family personal income (before income taxes)	Number				Percent distribution			
	Total (millions)	Non-farm families (millions)	Farm operator families (millions)	Unattached individuals (millions)	Total	Non-farm families	Farm operator families	Unattached individuals
Under \$1,000.....	2.9	2.2	0.7	2.0	8	1	12	21
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	6.4	1.7	1.3	2.8	11	5	25	25
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	6.8	2.8	1.1	2.1	13	9	20	22
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	7.4	5.1	.8	1.4	16	14	15	16
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	7.2	5.0	.8	.7	14	17	10	8
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	6.3	5.0	.3	.4	12	15	6	4
\$6,000-\$7,499.....	6.2	5.8	.3	.2	12	19	6	3
\$7,500-\$9,999.....	4.8	4.5	.2	.3	10	18	4	1
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	2.3	2.1	.1	.1	4	8	2	1
\$15,000 and over.....	1.5	1.4	.1	.1	3	4	1	1
Total.....	60.4	35.4	4.5	3.4	100	100	100	100

Source: Office of Business Economics, U. S. Department of Commerce.

In connection with farm operator families, it should be noted that the 1953 distribution reflects the fact that the average income of the group in that year was below its 1951 peak, although higher than in most other years of the post-war period. (Off-the-farm income is included along with net income from farming in determining family personal income for farm operator families.) Thus relatively more of the farm families were concentrated in the lower income ranges in 1953 than in the peak year 1951. For instance, about 37 percent are estimated to have received incomes below \$2,000 in 1953 as compared with 31 percent in 1951.

More basically, in determining farm family income food and fuel produced and consumed on farms is valued at farm prices, in conformity with the design of the national income accounts. An alternative valuation at retail prices would have added to farm operators' incomes and removed some of the farm units from the low income range.

Table 4.—Major Groups of Consumer Units in 1953

Major group	Consumer units		Family personal income		
	Number (millions)	Percent	Amount (billions of dollars)	Percent	Average income (dollars)
Nonfarm families.....	35.6	70	227.7	84	6,390
Farm operator families.....	6.5	11	19.0	7	3,460
All families.....	41.1	81	246.7	91	6,000
Unattached individuals.....	9.4	19	24.8	9	2,630
Total.....	50.5	100	271.5	100	5,370

Source: Office of Business Economics, U. S. Department of Commerce.

Table 6.—Family Composition in 1952

Quintile ¹	Average number of—				Percent of families			
	Persons per family	Earnings 14 years old and over per family	Children under 18 years		Without children under 18 years	With only 2 persons	With heads aged 65 years old and over	Median age of family head
			Per family	Per family with 1 or more children				
Lowest.....	3.19	1.02	1.11	2.42	54.3	51.9	20.0	54
2.....	3.55	1.24	1.25	2.31	41.4	35.6	13.9	43
3.....	3.63	1.44	1.40	2.21	38.6	29.1	7.9	41
4.....	3.63	1.83	1.21	2.06	32.4	28.5	6.5	42
Highest.....	3.72	1.86	1.07	1.97	46.5	34.6	7.0	48

1. Families of two or more persons ranked by size of family money income (before income taxes).

Source: Office of Business Economics, U. S. Department of Commerce, based on Census Bureau data.

Furthermore, it is generally agreed that price levels are somewhat lower for rural than for urban families mainly because of differences in the regional distribution of the two groups. If allowance could be made for this factor, the result would also be some reduction in the number of low income farm families relative to that of nonfarm units.

An additional specific factor which should be taken into account is that, on the average, farm families are probably subject to lower effective rates of taxation than the nonfarm groups. More generally, there are such substantial differences between rural and urban modes of living that it is very difficult to make meaningful comparisons of economic status between these groups.

Some of the factors which have been reviewed affect the distribution of nonfarm families also, but their quantitative importance is much smaller. For instance, the presence of part-year earnings affects the interpretation of the nonfarm family distribution, since some young couples that are included in the low ranges of that distribution did not have independent economic status throughout the year. Also, differential needs and responsibilities that have been mentioned in connection with individuals, must be taken into account in the case of multiperson families as well. Information contained in table 6 throws some light on this point.

This table summarizes information on the composition of families in each quintile, derived from sample data collected by the Bureau of the Census in a field survey of 1952 family incomes. Although based on a somewhat different definition of income, broad inferences may be drawn with regard to corresponding fifths of families shown in this study.

Particularly relevant in the present connection are the data relating to the average size of family, the proportion of families without children, and the age of the family head. It can be seen that the average family size is substantially smaller in the lowest fifth than higher on the income scale; that the proportion of families without any children is largest in the bottom group; and that the average age of the family

head is also largest in that fifth. All these facts make it reasonable to infer that family needs and responsibilities were smaller on the average among the low income groups than in the higher income ranges, and that the distribution of multiperson family incomes, as well as that of unattached individuals, should be interpreted with this in mind.

The prevalence of aged couples in the bottom group draws attention to another factor which is relevant in the case of individuals as well. The economic status of retired people is not always measured comprehensively by their current income because they plan as a matter of course to supplement such income by accumulated savings.

Furthermore, there is considerable turnover in the low income groups, both among multiperson families and individuals. This turnover reflects on the one hand such factors as temporary sickness, unemployment and business loss, and, on the other hand, the passing up and down the income scale that is part of the normal economic life-cycle of the typical family unit.

Top income groups

In general, turnover of this type causes a wider dispersion of incomes measured on an annual basis than would be shown by an income distribution in which income receipts were summed over a number of consecutive years. Thus, the number of families in the higher, as well as in the lower, income ranges in any given year is composed partly of units that are located there only temporarily.

In the interpretation of the statistics for upper income groups other characteristics of the income definition should be kept in mind as well. Most important, perhaps, is the fact that capital gains and losses are not counted as part of personal income, and that the earnings of stockholders are measured by their dividend receipts, without taking into account changes in their share of undistributed corporate earnings.

Technical Note

The main source materials on which the estimates of income size distribution are based are the statistics from Federal individual income tax returns prepared in summary form by the Internal Revenue Service, and the sample data on family incomes collected in annual field surveys of the Bureau of the Census and the Federal Reserve Board. The income size distribution series presented here for the period through 1951 were derived by a systematic combination of these two sets of statistics. As part of the integration procedure the basic data were adjusted so that the totals for the various types of income—wages and salaries, noncorporate business income, dividends, etc.—would agree with the independently estimated totals included in the Office of Business Economics aggregate personal income series.

A detailed description of the methods of combining and adjusting the tax return and sample survey statistics to derive the income distribution estimates for 1944-47 is included in "Income Distribution in the United States, by Size, 1944-50" (U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., 1953, price 65 cents.)² The following descrip-

tion relates to the estimates of income size distribution for later years.

Before-tax distributions for 1950 and 1951

As described in the Income Distribution supplement, the basic procedure used to derive income size distribution estimates for nonfarm families and unattached individuals for 1944-47 involved the following main steps: (1) The derivation from consolidated Federal individual income tax returns of a distribution of individual earners by size of their wage-salary or nonfarm entrepreneurial earnings; (2) the combination of these individual earners into family units classified by size of family earnings, based on relationships between individual and family earnings determined from the Census Bureau sample survey data; and (3) the addition of other types of income to family earnings to obtain the distribution of nonfarm families by family personal income level.

For 1950 and 1951, a somewhat different integration of the source material was suggested by two considerations. In the first place, the split-income provision introduced for Federal income tax returns in 1948 led to a sizable increase in the number of two-income joint returns of husbands and wives which would require separation under step (1); many couples formerly filing two separate returns reported their combined income on a joint return once the split-income

2. It may be noted that revisions have not been made in the 1944-47 also distribution series to incorporate the revised estimates for these years of aggregate personal income and its component income types that have been prepared subsequent to the Income Distribution supplement. Most of these revisions were small and in view of the detailed statistical procedures in constructing also distributions and the minor changes that could be anticipated, it did not seem worthwhile to revise the distribution series for this period. The largest revisions applied to the nonfarm income totals for 1946 and 1947 which were reduced by about \$1 billion. Thus the size distribution series overstates somewhat the economic status of farmers in those two years. For other types of income the revisions were much smaller, and for total family personal income they did not exceed \$500 million or less than 0.5 percent of the total.

provision went into effect. In view of the lack of adequate up-to-date information for separating these returns a methodology which would omit this step seemed in order.

A second reason for amending the earlier procedure was the lack of current sample survey data on the relationships between individual earner distributions and family earnings distributions, such as were used in step (2) of the 1944-47 procedure. The latest Census Bureau sample data that included the necessary cross-classification of these earnings statistics referred to 1946. However, more nearly current data providing a bridge between tax returns and families classified by levels of total income (i. e., including dividends, interest, rents and other types of income in addition to earnings) were available from the Census Bureau samples. This suggested a methodology in which tax returns would be converted into family units at a stage where the former were classified not by levels of earnings as in the earlier methodology, but by levels of total income.

The following is a summary of the major steps for deriving the nonfarm family income distributions for 1950 and 1951.

First, Federal individual income tax returns in each year, classified by adjusted gross income brackets in the tabulations available from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), were shifted to brackets representing income exclusive of net capital gains. The shifting of returns reporting such gains (and of their incomes exclusive of such gains) was based on IRS tabulations for the two years which showed these returns cross-classified by adjusted gross income brackets and by net capital gain brackets.³ In the shifting procedure four major groups of returns distinguished in the IRS tabulations were treated separately: joint returns of husbands and wives, separate returns of husbands, separate returns of wives, and single returns.

Second, the returns were combined into family units. Incomes reported on separate returns of husbands and wives—a relatively small group in this period—were combined on the basis of an estimated cross-distribution in which the husbands were classified by size of their own income and cross-classified by size of the wife's income. The main combination step, however, was the addition of the income of supplementary family income recipients (other than wives) to that of heads (including husband-wife combinations).

The combination was accomplished mainly on the basis of an unpublished Census Bureau study in which the 1949 Federal individual income tax returns filed by a sample of family members that were included in the Census Bureau's field survey of family incomes for that year were tabulated. These tabulations (a) provided distributions of family heads (or husband-wife combinations), and of supplementary income recipients, by size classes of income reported on their income tax returns, with each group further classified by the number of income recipients in the family of which they were a part, and (b) cross-classified the supplementary income recipients in each income bracket by size of the income of the family head (or husband-wife combination) reported on tax returns. On the basis of (a), returns in each bracket of adjusted gross income less capital gain were subdivided into the following eight groups: heads of families (or husband-wife combinations) with 0, 1, 2, or 3 or more supplementary income recipients; supplementary income recipients in families with 1, 2, or 3 or more such recipients; and unattached individuals.

For families with no supplementary income recipients—by far the largest group—and for unattached individuals, the distributions required no combination. For families with

one supplementary income recipient, the incomes of family heads (or husband-wife combinations) were combined with the incomes of supplementary recipients on the basis of the information under (b). For the relatively small groups of families with two or more supplementary income recipients, where the sample data were too scanty to provide adequate cross-tabulations, the individual income recipients were combined into family units by procedures similar to those used in earlier years for combining individual earners into families, as described on page 51 of the Income Distribution supplement. A combined all-family distribution was then obtained by adding the distributions for the various number-of-income-recipient groups.

The third step was to subtract farm operator families included in the tax-return-based all-family distribution. Estimates of the numbers and amounts of income to be subtracted in each income bracket (including amounts from nonfarm sources as well as reported net farm income) were derived from IRS tabulations of tax returns reporting proprietorship income in the farming industry and sample statistics giving source patterns of income for farm operators in various income brackets. As described in the Income Distribution supplement, the size distribution series for the farm group, unlike that for nonfarm families, is not based on tax return data.

Finally, the nonfarm family distribution in each year was adjusted to add families not filing tax returns and types of income not covered on returns, and also to adjust reported amounts of income so as to agree with the control totals included in the personal income series of the Office of Business Economics. Control totals of the aggregate amounts of income, by type of income, and of the total number of families were derived as explained on pages 53 and 78 of the Income Distribution supplement. Families not filing returns were included initially by substituting the number of families with incomes under \$1,000 shown in the inflated sample surveys of the Census Bureau for the corresponding number derived in preceding steps. The total number of nonfarm families in the distribution at this point agreed very closely with the control total number of such families that had been established.

To add the income not accounted for, a comparison was first made between the amounts of each major type of income—wages and salaries, business and partnership income, dividends, interest, rent, etc.—covered in the tax-return-based distribution for nonfarm families and the corresponding control totals for that group developed from the personal income series.

Detailed information was available for earlier years, as described in the Income Distribution supplement, on the distribution by income brackets of certain major elements of income that had to be added (nonmoney income, social security benefits, and other transfer payments.) A distribution by family income brackets of the total amount of income not covered in the tax-return-based nonfarm family distribution was estimated, taking into account this information, the distribution of reported taxable incomes, and the results of the IRS audit studies for 1948 and 1949. The amount of additional income in each income bracket was added to the reported amount, and the families were shifted up the income scale by using the interpolation procedures described on page 61 of the Income Distribution supplement.

The several steps described above were also carried through for the year 1947 in order to determine whether the change in methodology had introduced any basic differences in the income distribution series for nonfarm families. The resulting distribution was found to be closely similar to that presented for 1947 in the Income Distribution supplement. Since the split-income provision for tax returns was not in operation in 1947 and since the sample data used in the

3. The statistical procedures for cross-subtraction (and also for cross-addition mentioned in the following paragraphs) are described in footnote 6, page 35 of the Income Distribution supplement.

Income Distribution supplement for combining earners into families applied to the adjacent year 1946, the 1947 income distribution for nonfarm families in the supplement provided more reliable figures for that year than the procedure described above.

For farm operator families, the income distributions for 1950 and 1951 were derived by essentially the same procedures that are described in the Income Distribution supplement and are subject to the same limitations. The estimates for unattached individuals were obtained by extrapolating the 1947 figures derived in the supplement on the basis of the increase in the average income of the group, on the assumption that relative income differences among these individuals had not changed.⁴ It may be noted that detailed income-tax-based estimates for unattached individuals showed practically no change in relative income distribution during the 1944-47 period.

Before-tax distributions for 1953

Tabulations of Federal individual income tax returns are not yet available for 1953 so that the estimates for that year are of a preliminary character. Sample data on the size distribution of consumer units were available from the Federal Reserve Board's annual Survey of Consumer Finances which indicated that for multiperson families and for unattached individuals, relative differences in incomes were essentially the same in 1953 as in 1951. Accordingly, the income distribution for each group was estimated here by extrapolating the corresponding 1951 distribution on the assumption of unchanged relative income differences.⁴ A similar assumption was made in the case of the farm operator family group, and the distribution for nonfarm families was obtained by subtracting the farm distribution from the all-family estimates. Control totals for 1953 for total family income and the total number of consumer units were obtained for the three consumer groups by the procedures outlined in the Income Distribution supplement.

Federal individual income tax liabilities

Federal individual income tax liability is defined here as the liability reported on individual income tax returns plus an allowance for taxes collected through subsequent audit, minus liabilities of military personnel not living with their families, minus liabilities on net capital gains.

4. The statistical procedures used were similar to those described in footnote 12, page 38, of the Income Distribution supplement.

For 1950 and 1951, Federal individual income tax liabilities of families classified by family personal income brackets represent essentially a rearrangement of the liabilities reported on individual income tax returns as tabulated by the IRS. In broad outline, the procedure for deriving the family liability figures was to shift the reported liabilities (after subtracting estimated liabilities on capital gains) along with the returns as the latter were combined into family units and shifted from adjusted gross income into family personal income brackets by the procedures outlined above. Amounts of tax liabilities on capital gains that were subtracted were estimated on the basis of IRS tabulations showing for each adjusted gross income bracket the amounts of statutory net capital gains segregated for alternative tax, and the amounts taxed at ordinary rates. The tax on the former was derived by multiplying segregated gains by the alternative tax rate and that on the latter by multiplying other gains by the average effective tax rate in each bracket. For unattached individuals, 1950 liabilities were estimated from statutory tax rates as described on pages 74-76 of the Income Distribution supplement, and those for 1951 by extrapolating the 1950 figures by changes in statutory rates for single persons with no dependents.

For 1953, for which comparable information from tax returns was not available, the estimates of liabilities were based on changes in statutory tax rates. Ratios of 1953 to 1951 average tax liabilities for given amounts of net income, based on data supplied by the Treasury Department, were applied to the 1951 liability averages for families and unattached individuals at corresponding points on the family income scale.

The averages for 1950, 1951, and 1953 were then adjusted proportionately so that when multiplied by the numbers of consumer units in the various family income brackets they would account for the estimated total of Federal individual income tax liability (as defined for the purposes of this report) for those years. Although based in part on tax collection data, the estimate of total tax liability for 1953 is preliminary.

Distributions of families and unattached individuals by level of after-tax income were derived for 1950, 1951 and 1953 by subtracting Federal individual income tax liabilities from family personal income in each family income bracket, and shifting the families down the income scale by using the interpolation procedures described on page 61 of the Income Distribution supplement.

Table 7.—Number of Consumer Units and Persons, and Aggregate and Average Family Personal Income, Selected Years, 1944-53

(Continuation of table 1 of Income Distribution supplement)

	Families and unattached individuals						Families						Unattached individuals		
	Number of consumer units ¹ (millions)	Number of persons ¹		Family personal income			Number of families ¹ (millions)	Number of persons ¹		Family personal income			Number of unattached individuals ¹ (millions)	Family personal income	
		Total (millions)	Average number per consumer unit	Amount (billions of dollars)	Average income			Total (millions)	Average number per family	Amount (billions of dollars)	Average income			Amount (billions of dollars)	Per capita (dollars)
					Per consumer unit (dollars)	Per capita (dollars)					Per family (dollars)	Per capita (dollars)			
1944	40.0	125.4	3.07	147.7	3,014	1,378	33.3	112.8	3.54	134.1	4,027	1,138	7.8	13.6	1,707
1945	43.3	130.4	3.22	170.7	3,040	1,325	35.9	131.9	3.66	150.7	4,303	1,185	7.5	14.0	1,878
1947	44.7	142.0	3.19	194.6	4,190	1,385	37.0	134.9	3.64	160.3	4,574	1,266	7.7	15.3	1,978
1950	48.0	149.1	3.05	217.3	4,444	1,457	38.8	140.0	3.62	197.7	4,909	1,418	8.1	19.5	2,147
1951	49.5	151.2	3.06	242.7	4,904	1,604	40.4	142.2	3.62	221.4	5,477	1,567	8.1	21.8	2,446
1953	50.5	158.6	3.10	271.5	5,372	1,733	41.1	147.2	3.68	246.7	6,003	1,676	8.4	24.8	2,920

1. As of end of calendar year.

Table 8.—Distribution of Consumer Units and of Family Personal Income by Family Personal Income Level, Selected Years, 1944-53

(Continuation of Table 2 of Income Distribution supplement)

Family personal income (before income taxes)	Number of families and unattached individuals (thousands)						Aggregate family personal income (millions of dollars)					
	1944	1946	1947	1948	1951	1953	1944	1946	1947	1948	1951	1953
Under \$1,000.....	4,363	3,820	3,748	3,661	3,227	2,805	2,300	2,017	1,973	1,943	1,690	1,427
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	5,256	7,060	7,370	7,454	6,022	5,443	12,338	17,221	17,221	17,533	2,081	3,342
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	5,732	6,781	6,485	6,081	7,164	6,886	21,838	22,007	21,179	20,275	17,945	16,304
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	7,723	8,590	8,628	8,838	8,123	7,500	25,940	26,000	26,046	26,865	26,000	26,865
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	4,853	5,364	5,724	7,041	7,455	7,247	20,301	26,960	26,563	31,533	30,552	32,821
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	2,616	3,065	3,474	4,604	4,888	4,220	13,738	16,725	18,967	26,603	30,602	34,216
\$6,000-\$7,499.....	2,259	2,647	3,151	3,826	4,323	4,246	14,042	16,833	20,513	26,578	26,505	41,751
\$7,500-\$9,999.....	1,356	1,751	2,170	2,759	3,206	4,834	11,502	14,006	18,464	23,304	26,631	41,196
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	787	1,070	1,109	1,630	1,890	2,223	8,483	12,384	14,300	18,210	22,617	37,489
\$15,000-\$19,999.....	240	332	384	413	523	4,216	4,216	5,082	6,468	7,053	8,823	11,196
\$20,000-\$24,999.....	105	143	167	216	224	2,396	2,396	2,763	3,700	4,636	5,003	43,279
\$25,000-\$39,999.....	140	102	206	204	330	1,404	4,061	8,368	0,870	9,743	11,997	
\$40,000 and over.....	40	54	55	84	95		3,607	4,827	4,902	7,090	8,358	
Total.....	40,880	43,339	44,740	48,880	49,418	60,886	147,121	170,765	184,598	217,282	242,862	271,546
Percent distribution												
Under \$1,000.....	12.7	8.8	8.4	7.0	6.5	5.7	1.6	1.2	1.1	8.9	0.7	5.5
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	12.8	17.0	16.5	15.3	12.2	10.8	8.4	6.8	6.1	12.1	3.7	1.0
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	14.4	15.6	14.5	12.4	14.6	12.8	14.9	12.9	11.6	12.3	7.4	6.0
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	18.0	19.8	19.3	17.0	16.5	14.0	18.3	17.5	16.3	12.8	11.8	8.6
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	11.1	12.4	12.8	14.4	15.1	14.3	13.7	14.0	13.0	14.6	13.6	12.9
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	6.2	7.1	7.8	9.6	11.3	12.4	9.3	9.8	10.3	11.6	12.0	12.6
\$6,000-\$7,499.....	5.5	6.0	7.0	7.9	10.7	12.3	10.1	9.9	11.3	11.8	14.7	15.4
\$7,500-\$9,999.....	3.4	4.0	4.8	5.6	6.8	9.0	8.0	8.7	10.0	10.9	11.9	15.2
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	1.7	2.5	2.7	3.1	3.8	4.5	5.7	7.6	7.7	8.4	9.3	10.1
\$15,000-\$19,999.....	.6	.8	.8	.8	1.1	2.0	2.0	2.3	3.6	3.3	2.7	
\$20,000-\$24,999.....	.2	.3	.4	.4	.6	1.0	1.0	1.6	2.0	2.3	2.5	
\$25,000-\$39,999.....	.3	.4	.5	.6	.7	3.0	3.1	3.7	3.7	4.5	4.6	15.6
\$40,000 and over.....	.2	.1	.1	.2	.2		2.4	2.8	2.7	3.5	3.4	
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 9.—Distribution of Family Personal Income and Federal Individual Income Tax Liability Among Quintiles and Top 5 Percent of Consumer Units, 1950, 1951, and 1953

(Continuation of Table 3 of Income Distribution supplement; data for 1950 replace those in Tables 8, 21, and 22 of the supplement)

Quintile	Percent distribution of—			Mean amount of—			Tax rate (percent)	Lower income limit of quintile ¹	
	Family per- sonal income	Tax liability	After-tax income	Family per- sonal income (dollars)	Tax liability (dollars)	After-tax in- come (dollars)		Before-tax basis (dollars)	After-tax basis (dollars)
1950									
Lowest.....	4.3	0.0	5.1	1,050	10	1,040	1.8		
2.....	10.0	4.7	11.4	2,418	89	2,329	3.7	1,500	1,700
3.....	18.1	8.7	16.8	5,550	183	5,365	4.6	3,020	2,820
4.....	22.1	15.0	22.7	4,011	297	3,714	7.0	4,100	3,960
Highest.....	45.1	69.8	44.0	10,264	1,508	8,756	12.5	6,550	6,450
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	4,444	375	4,069	8.4		
Top 5 percent.....	21.4	45.8	19.2	10,066	2,422	15,534	18.0	10,200	9,160
1951									
Lowest.....	5.0	1.2	5.4	1,321	30	1,291	2.4		
2.....	11.8	6.0	11.9	2,775	136	2,639	4.9	2,880	2,000
3.....	16.5	9.7	17.2	4,034	280	3,754	6.8	3,420	3,230
4.....	22.3	18.5	22.8	5,473	442	5,031	8.1	4,680	4,370
Highest.....	44.0	65.3	42.7	11,036	1,601	9,435	14.4	6,480	5,680
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	4,804	487	4,317	9.3		
Top 5 percent.....	20.7	41.0	18.4	20,287	4,053	16,234	20.0	11,110	9,890
1953									
Lowest.....	5.0	1.4	5.4	1,341	41	1,300	3.1		
2.....	11.8	6.8	12.0	3,045	175	2,870	5.8	2,880	2,180
3.....	16.5	10.6	17.2	4,420	311	4,109	7.0	3,740	3,410
4.....	22.3	18.7	22.8	5,003	535	4,468	9.3	4,120	4,720
Highest.....	44.9	62.5	42.0	12,000	1,884	10,116	15.6	7,830	6,330
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	5,372	593	4,779	11.0		
Top 5 percent.....	20.7	42.4	18.2	22,206	4,800	17,406	21.6	12,130	10,730

1. Rounded to nearest \$10.

Table 10.—All Consumer Units: Distribution of Number, Family Personal Income, and Federal Individual Income Tax Liability by Family Personal Income Level, 1950

[Replaces Table 10 of Income Distribution supplement]

Family personal income (before income taxes)	Number of families and unattached in- dividuals (thousands)	Family personal income		Federal individual income tax liability			Percent distribution					
		Aggregate (millions of dollars)	Average (dollars)	Aggregate (millions of dollars)	Average (dollars)	Tax rate (percent)	Simple			Cumulative		
							Number	Income	Tax liability	Number	Income	Tax liability
Under \$1,000.....	8,801	1,948	503	1	0	0	7.9	0.9	0	7.9	0.0	0
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	7,494	11,333	1,512	247	33	3.2	15.8	5.2	1.3	23.7	5.1	1.3
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	5,081	20,273	2,508	785	85	2.8	10.0	9.3	4.2	33.6	15.4	5.5
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	5,586	20,083	3,402	1,341	156	4.5	17.0	13.6	7.3	50.6	29.2	12.8
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	7,084	31,533	4,454	1,684	239	4.8	14.4	14.0	9.2	65.0	43.7	22.0
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	4,604	25,003	5,406	1,751	379	7.0	9.0	11.8	9.7	74.4	55.5	31.7
\$6,000-\$6,999.....	3,530	23,578	6,680	2,039	578	8.8	7.9	11.8	11.2	82.3	67.3	42.9
\$7,000-\$9,999.....	2,768	23,364	8,471	1,977	717	8.8	5.0	10.8	10.8	87.3	78.1	52.7
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	1,830	18,310	11,010	1,780	1,180	9.7	3.1	8.4	9.7	90.4	89.5	62.4
\$15,000-\$19,999.....	414	7,083	17,078	931	2,244	13.1	.6	3.3	6.1	91.0	90.8	68.6
\$20,000-\$24,999.....	218	4,895	22,190	702	3,405	12.6	.4	2.2	4.2	91.4	92.0	72.7
\$25,000-\$49,999.....	204	9,743	33,637	2,050	9,002	21.1	.0	4.5	11.2	91.4	90.5	83.9
\$50,000 and over.....	84	7,600	91,070	2,063	24,074	38.4	.2	3.5	10.1	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total.....	48,880	217,253	4,444	28,320	375	8.4	100.0	100.0	100.0			

Table 11.—All Families: Distribution of Number and of Family Personal Income by Family Personal Income Level, 1950

Family personal income (before income taxes)	Number of families (thousands)	Family personal income		Percent distribution			
		Aggregate (millions of dollars)	Average (dollars)	Simple		Cumulative	
				Number	Income	Number	Income
Under \$1,000.....	1,402	748	513	8.7	0.4	8.7	0.4
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	4,730	7,281	1,535	11.9	3.7	15.0	4.1
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	6,001	16,135	2,688	15.1	7.6	30.7	11.7
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	7,548	28,414	3,763	19.0	12.4	49.7	24.1
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	6,028	25,655	4,257	10.6	15.3	60.3	39.1
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	4,531	24,718	5,455	11.3	12.5	77.5	51.6
\$6,000-\$6,999.....	3,721	24,511	6,608	9.4	12.5	87.0	64.1
\$7,000-\$9,999.....	3,903	23,587	6,043	8.9	11.0	93.5	75.0
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	1,501	17,557	11,707	3.8	9.0	97.3	84.6
\$15,000-\$19,999.....	401	6,845	17,069	1.0	3.5	98.3	88.1
\$20,000-\$24,999.....	211	4,582	22,118	.5	2.4	98.8	91.5
\$25,000-\$49,999.....	284	9,402	33,081	.7	4.8	99.5	96.3
\$50,000 and over.....	81	7,349	90,883	.2	3.7	100.0	100.0
Total.....	33,798	207,724	4,369	100.0	100.0		

Table 13.—Farm Operator Families: Distribution of Number and of Family Personal Income by Family Personal Income Level, 1950

Family personal income (before income taxes)	Number of families (thousands)	Family personal income		Percent distribution			
		Aggregate (millions of dollars)	Average (dollars)	Simple		Cumulative	
				Number	Income	Number	Income
Under \$1,000.....	734	421	574	15.0	2.2	15.0	2.2
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	1,400	2,104	1,493	24.9	11.0	39.9	13.2
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	1,141	2,850	2,481	20.2	14.8	60.1	28.0
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	820	2,840	3,463	14.5	14.9	74.6	42.9
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	650	2,494	3,836	9.9	13.0	84.5	55.9
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	345	1,884	5,455	0.1	9.8	85.6	65.7
\$6,000-\$6,999.....	292	1,751	6,001	4.7	9.2	90.3	74.9
\$7,000-\$9,999.....	193	1,413	7,331	3.4	8.6	93.7	83.5
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	118	1,404	11,879	2.1	7.3	95.8	90.8
\$15,000-\$19,999.....	34	587	17,263	.6	3.1	96.4	93.9
\$20,000-\$24,999.....	14	383	27,091	.2	1.6	96.6	95.5
\$25,000-\$49,999.....	10	423	32,548	.8	2.8	97.4	96.3
\$50,000 and over.....	4	321	80,247	.1	1.7	100.0	100.0
Total.....	5,558	15,110	3,232	100.0	100.0		

Table 12.—Nonfarm Families: Distribution of Number and of Family Personal Income by Family Personal Income Level, 1950

Family personal income (before income taxes)	Number of families (thousands)	Family personal income		Percent distribution			
		Aggregate (millions of dollars)	Average (dollars)	Simple		Cumulative	
				Number	Income	Number	Income
Under \$1,000.....	728	337	459	2.1	0.2	2.1	0.2
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	3,321	4,187	1,258	9.7	2.9	11.8	3.1
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	4,808	12,205	2,532	14.2	6.9	26.0	10.0
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	6,728	22,975	3,400	19.7	12.2	45.7	22.2
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	6,055	27,101	4,475	17.8	15.2	63.5	37.4
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	4,198	22,534	5,368	12.3	12.6	75.8	51.3
\$6,000-\$6,999.....	3,458	23,040	6,663	10.1	12.0	85.9	64.1
\$7,000-\$9,999.....	2,600	21,104	8,116	7.5	11.0	93.2	75.0
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	1,363	16,463	11,990	4.1	9.2	97.3	84.6
\$15,000-\$19,999.....	367	6,271	17,070	1.1	3.5	98.4	88.1
\$20,000-\$24,999.....	197	4,559	23,150	.6	2.4	99.0	91.1
\$25,000-\$49,999.....	268	9,390	35,115	.8	5.0	99.8	96.1
\$50,000 and over.....	77	7,068	91,165	.2	3.9	100.0	100.0
Total.....	34,140	178,134	5,212	100.0	100.0		

Table 14.—Unattached Individuals: Distribution of Number and of Family Personal Income by Family Personal Income Level, 1950

Family personal income (before income taxes)	Number of unat- tached in- dividuals (thousands)	Family personal income		Percent distribution			
		Aggregate (millions of dollars)	Average (dollars)	Simple		Cumulative	
				Number	Income	Number	Income
Under \$1,000.....	3,399	1,105	496	20.4	0.1	20.4	0.1
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	3,781	4,072	1,073	20.8	20.3	41.2	20.3
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	3,099	4,138	1,335	22.8	20.3	64.0	40.6
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	1,840	3,078	1,673	11.4	18.2	75.4	58.8
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	929	1,578	1,698	4.7	8.8	80.1	67.6
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	162	888	5,465	1.8	4.0	81.9	71.7
\$6,000-\$6,999.....	115	767	6,667	1.2	2.8	83.1	74.5
\$7,000-\$9,999.....	65	557	8,553	.7	3.8	83.8	78.3
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	25	423	16,920	.4	2.3	84.2	81.0
\$15,000-\$19,999.....	13	225	17,303	.1	1.2	84.3	82.2
\$20,000-\$24,999.....	7	104	22,428	.1	.8	84.4	83.0
\$25,000-\$49,999.....	10	335	33,500	.1	1.7	84.5	84.7
\$50,000 and over.....	3	333	111,000	.0	1.7	84.5	86.4
Total.....	9,800	19,538	3,147	100.0	100.0		

Table 15.—All Consumer Units: Distribution of Number, Family Personal Income, and Federal Individual Income Tax Liability by Family Personal Income Level, 1951

Family personal income (before income taxes)	Number of families and un- attached individuals (thous- ands)	Family personal income		Federal individual income tax liability			Percent distribution					
		Aggregate (millions of dollars)	Average (dollars)	Aggregate (millions of dollars)	Average (dollars)	Tax rate (percent)	Simple			Cumulative		
							Number	Income	Tax liability	Number	Income	Tax liability
Under \$1,000.....	2,287	1,080	468	0	0	0	0.5	0.7	0	0.5	0.7	0
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	0,022	0,084	1,505	241	40	2.7	12.2	3.7	1.0	18.7	4.1	1.0
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	7,164	17,045	2,385	834	110	4.0	14.5	7.4	3.5	33.2	11.8	4.5
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	8,182	28,080	3,433	1,593	190	5.4	15.5	11.5	6.5	48.7	23.6	15.0
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	7,405	28,552	4,504	2,154	289	6.4	15.1	13.5	8.9	64.5	37.4	20.9
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	5,580	30,502	5,466	2,400	441	8.1	11.3	15.5	10.2	75.1	62.0	30.1
\$6,000-\$6,999.....	5,223	34,504	6,607	3,231	610	9.2	10.7	14.7	12.6	84.8	84.7	43.7
\$7,000-\$7,999.....	3,290	28,531	8,615	2,610	829	9.8	6.8	11.5	11.7	93.6	75.6	54.4
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	1,680	22,017	11,907	2,321	1,327	11.1	2.5	9.3	10.5	97.4	85.3	65.0
\$15,000-\$19,999.....	523	9,033	17,108	1,300	2,490	14.0	1.1	8.7	5.4	98.5	89.5	71.3
\$20,000-\$24,999.....	274	0,003	22,110	1,030	3,779	17.1	.4	2.5	4.3	99.1	92.0	75.5
\$25,000-\$49,999.....	320	11,057	32,970	2,559	7,083	28.2	.7	4.5	10.4	99.6	94.5	85.2
\$50,000 and over.....	95	8,350	88,555	3,234	35,375	30.0	.3	5.4	13.5	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total.....	49,098	242,632	4,942	21,100	437	9.9	100.0	100.0	100.0			

Table 16.—All Families: Distribution of Number and of Family Personal Income by Family Personal Income Level, 1951

Family personal income (before income taxes)	Number of families (thous- ands)	Family personal income		Percent distribution			
		Aggregate (mil- lions of dollars)	Average (dollars)	Simple		Cumulative	
				Number	Income	Number	Income
Under \$1,000.....	1,084	0.30	288	2.7	0.3	2.7	0.3
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	3,495	5,310	1,521	8.0	2.4	11.8	2.7
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	5,079	12,795	2,519	12.5	5.8	24.3	8.5
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	6,589	24,505	3,615	17.3	11.1	41.7	19.6
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	6,394	21,072	4,607	17.0	14.0	58.7	33.6
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	5,338	29,304	5,488	12.3	13.3	71.4	46.9
\$6,000-\$6,999.....	5,178	34,032	6,588	12.8	15.6	84.2	62.5
\$7,000-\$7,999.....	3,200	27,708	8,614	8.2	12.0	92.4	75.0
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	1,554	22,078	11,007	4.0	10.4	97.0	85.0
\$15,000-\$19,999.....	508	9,031	17,790	1.3	2.9	98.3	88.0
\$20,000-\$24,999.....	288	0,003	22,108	.7	2.7	99.0	91.0
\$25,000-\$49,999.....	324	16,003	32,963	.8	4.3	99.8	90.4
\$50,000 and over.....	91	7,958	88,240	.2	3.6	100.0	100.0
Total.....	40,420	224,378	5,477	100.0	100.0		

Table 17.—Nonfarm Families: Distribution of Number and of Family Personal Income by Family Personal Income Level, 1951

Family personal income (before income taxes)	Number of families (thous- ands)	Family personal income		Percent distribution			
		Aggregate (mil- lions of dollars)	Average (dollars)	Simple		Cumulative	
				Number	Income	Number	Income
Under \$1,000.....	544	282	481	1.0	0.1	1.0	0.1
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	2,304	3,852	1,665	6.5	1.8	7.5	1.9
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	4,012	10,130	2,530	11.5	5.1	19.0	7.0
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	6,141	21,010	3,435	17.7	10.9	36.7	17.9
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	6,291	25,373	4,016	18.1	14.3	54.8	32.2
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	4,020	29,987	5,465	14.1	13.5	68.9	45.7
\$6,000-\$6,999.....	4,780	32,100	6,690	13.8	15.1	82.7	60.8
\$7,000-\$7,999.....	3,027	25,431	8,400	8.7	12.8	91.4	73.6
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	1,081	20,000	11,001	4.5	10.0	95.9	84.0
\$15,000-\$19,999.....	460	7,580	17,559	1.3	4.0	97.2	88.0
\$20,000-\$24,999.....	280	0,430	22,160	.7	2.7	97.9	91.3
\$25,000-\$49,999.....	383	10,013	32,000	.0	5.0	99.8	95.3
\$50,000 and over.....	93	7,420	80,870	.2	3.7	100.0	100.0
Total.....	34,820	135,211	5,721	100.0	100.0		

Table 18.—Farm Operator Families: Distribution of Number and of Family Personal Income by Family Personal Income Level, 1951

Family personal income (before income taxes)	Number of families (thous- ands)	Family personal income		Percent distribution			
		Aggregate (mil- lions of dollars)	Average (dollars)	Simple		Cumulative	
				Number	Income	Number	Income
Under \$1,000.....	510	374	0.02	8.0	1.7	8.0	1.7
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	1,191	1,784	1,495	21.3	7.8	29.3	9.5
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	1,087	2,045	2,470	18.0	11.0	47.3	21.4
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	616	2,940	3,478	15.1	13.3	62.4	34.7
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	603	2,600	4,278	10.8	12.2	73.2	46.9
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	429	2,844	5,464	7.8	10.6	81.4	57.5
\$6,000-\$6,999.....	375	2,530	6,650	5.8	11.4	87.2	68.9
\$7,000-\$7,999.....	273	2,237	3,557	4.9	10.5	92.1	79.4
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	173	2,078	11,972	3.1	6.4	95.2	85.8
\$15,000-\$19,999.....	48	222	17,110	.0	3.7	95.2	89.5
\$20,000-\$24,999.....	20	440	22,103	.4	2.0	95.6	91.5
\$25,000-\$49,999.....	31	670	32,700	.4	2.1	99.9	97.6
\$50,000 and over.....	9	537	70,421	.1	2.4	100.0	100.0
Total.....	5,698	22,168	3,953	100.0	100.0		

Table 19.—Unattached Individuals: Distribution of Number and of Family Personal Income by Family Personal Income Level, 1951

Family personal income (before income taxes)	Number of un- attached individuals (thous- ands)	Family personal income		Percent distribution			
		Aggregate (mil- lions of dollars)	Average (dollars)	Simple		Cumulative	
				Number	Income	Number	Income
Under \$1,000.....	2,149	1,044	487	23.5	4.9	23.5	4.9
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	2,627	3,700	1,401	27.9	17.7	51.4	22.6
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	2,065	0,100	2,470	23.0	24.2	74.5	46.8
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	1,209	4,181	3,453	13.3	18.1	87.8	64.9
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	601	2,450	4,050	6.2	11.7	94.0	76.6
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	322	1,201	5,415	2.4	8.7	96.4	85.3
\$6,000-\$6,999.....	145	981	6,623	1.6	4.6	98.0	90.0
\$7,000-\$7,999.....	50	703	8,454	1.3	2.8	99.3	92.8
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	45	580	11,907	.5	2.5	99.8	94.3
\$15,000-\$19,999.....	15	243	17,259	.2	1.2	99.9	95.5
\$20,000-\$24,999.....	5	175	22,250	.1	.8	99.9	96.3
\$25,000-\$49,999.....	12	403	32,933	.1	1.9	99.9	98.2
\$50,000 and over.....	4	395	84,370	.1	1.0	100.0	100.0
Total.....	9,060	21,273	2,345	100.0	100.0		

Table 20.—All Consumer Units: Distribution of Number, Family Personal Income, and Federal Individual Income Tax Liability by Family Personal Income Level, 1953

Family personal income (before income taxes)	Number of families and unattached individuals (thousands)	Family personal income		Federal individual income tax liability			Percent distribution					
		Aggregate (millions of dollars)	Average (dollars)	Aggregate (millions of dollars)	Average (dollars)	Tax rate (percent)	Simple			Cumulative		
							Number	Income	Tax li- ability	Number	Income	Tax li- ability
Under \$1,000.....	5,900	1,497	254	0	0	0	5.7	0.5	0	5.7	0.5	0
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	8,433	8,243	977	239	44	2.9	10.8	3.0	8	10.5	3.5	8
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	6,488	10,304	1,589	800	131	5.2	12.8	6.0	28	29.3	9.5	28
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	7,388	25,958	3,513	1,594	215	6.1	14.0	9.8	53	43.8	19.1	58
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	7,347	32,091	4,368	2,285	315	7.0	14.3	12.0	74	59.3	31.1	106
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	6,276	34,315	5,468	2,975	474	8.7	12.4	12.0	89	70.6	43.7	126
\$6,000-\$7,499.....	6,240	41,781	6,696	4,090	655	9.8	12.8	15.4	127	82.9	59.1	160
\$7,500-\$9,999.....	4,834	41,190	8,521	4,275	884	10.4	9.0	16.2	142	92.5	74.3	242
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	2,273	27,492	12,092	5,235	1,422	11.8	4.5	20.1	168	97.0	84.4	281
\$15,000 and over.....	1,494	42,279	28,300	10,457	7,001	24.7	2.0	18.5	249	100.0	100.0	108.0
Total.....	68,558	271,648	8,272	30,000	593	11.0	100.0	100.0	100.0			

Table 21.—All Families: Distribution of Number and of Family Personal Income by Family Personal Income Level, 1953

Family personal income (before income taxes)	Number of families (thousands)	Family personal income		Percent distribution			
		Aggregate (millions of dollars)	Average (dollars)	Simple		Cumulative	
				Number	Income	Number	Income
Under \$1,000.....	905	801	884	2.2	0.2	2.2	0.2
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	2,066	4,693	1,351	7.6	1.9	9.7	2.1
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	4,333	11,077	2,557	10.7	4.5	20.4	6.6
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	5,948	20,502	3,429	14.4	8.9	34.8	15.5
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	6,006	28,216	4,698	15.3	11.5	50.1	27.0
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	5,919	32,578	5,470	14.4	13.1	65.0	40.0
\$6,000-\$7,499.....	6,000	40,389	6,698	14.7	15.4	79.7	55.4
\$7,500-\$9,999.....	4,794	40,986	8,521	11.4	18.2	91.1	72.7
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	2,200	26,738	12,150	5.4	10.5	96.5	83.6
\$15,000 and over.....	1,443	46,006	32,157	3.3	18.6	100.0	100.0
Total.....	41,118	246,737	6,002	100.0			

Table 22.—Nonfarm Families: Distribution of Number and of Family Personal Income by Family Personal Income Level, 1953

Family personal income (before income taxes)	Number of families (thousands)	Family personal income		Percent distribution			
		Aggregate (millions of dollars)	Average (dollars)	Simple		Cumulative	
				Number	Income	Number	Income
Under \$1,000.....	222	107	481	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	1,734	2,084	1,202	4.8	1.2	4.8	1.3
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	2,337	3,358	2,543	9.2	3.7	14.0	5.0
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	5,153	18,180	3,528	14.4	8.0	28.0	13.0
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	5,950	20,737	4,484	10.7	11.7	45.7	24.7
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	5,520	30,471	5,471	15.0	13.4	61.3	38.1
\$6,000-\$7,499.....	5,703	38,413	6,700	10.2	16.8	77.5	55.0
\$7,500-\$9,999.....	4,500	38,302	8,520	12.7	10.8	90.2	71.8
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	2,089	28,302	13,111	5.0	11.1	95.1	82.0
\$15,000 and over.....	1,374	38,910	28,321	3.9	17.1	100.0	100.0
Total.....	35,638	227,754	6,393	100.0			

Table 23.—Farm Operator Families: Distribution of Number and of Family Personal Income by Family Personal Income Level, 1953

Family personal income (before income taxes)	Number of families (thousands)	Family personal income		Percent distribution			
		Aggregate (millions of dollars)	Average (dollars)	Simple		Cumulative	
				Number	Income	Number	Income
Under \$1,000.....	603	304	577	12.5	2.1	12.5	2.1
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	1,342	2,009	1,497	24.5	18.0	37.0	12.7
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	1,906	2,710	2,481	20.0	14.3	57.0	27.8
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	802	2,770	3,456	14.0	14.6	71.0	41.6
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	506	2,470	4,862	10.1	13.1	81.7	54.7
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	340	1,907	5,603	6.3	10.0	88.0	64.7
\$6,000-\$7,499.....	207	1,778	8,600	4.0	9.4	92.9	74.1
\$7,500-\$9,999.....	108	1,603	2,539	2.0	8.9	95.5	83.0
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	120	1,431	11,925	2.2	7.0	98.7	90.0
\$15,000 and over.....	69	1,777	25,885	1.3	9.4	100.0	100.0
Total.....	5,822	18,561	3,189	100.0			

Table 24.—Unattached Individuals: Distribution of Number and of Family Personal Income by Family Personal Income Level, 1953

Family personal income (before income taxes)	Number of unattached individuals (thousands)	Family personal income		Percent distribution			
		Aggregate (millions of dollars)	Average (dollars)	Simple		Cumulative	
				Number	Income	Number	Income
Under \$1,000.....	1,002	824	472	20.8	3.7	20.8	3.7
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	2,307	3,649	1,409	26.1	14.3	46.9	18.0
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	2,105	6,227	2,958	22.3	21.1	68.2	39.1
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	1,404	6,025	4,288	15.4	20.9	83.6	59.3
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	742	3,306	4,456	7.8	18.5	91.4	72.6
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	380	1,837	4,835	3.6	7.8	95.2	80.4
\$6,000-\$7,499.....	210	1,793	8,539	2.3	5.0	97.4	88.0
\$7,500-\$9,999.....	120	1,111	9,259	1.4	4.5	98.8	90.5
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	94	750	11,834	0.7	3.1	99.5	93.6
\$15,000 and over.....	50	1,596	31,732	0.5	8.4	100.0	100.0
Total.....	8,440	24,818	2,929	100.0			

Table 25.—Distribution of Consumer Units and of Family Personal Income After Federal Individual Income Tax Liability, by Level of After-Tax Income, 1950, 1951, and 1953

Family personal income after Federal individual income tax liability	Number of families and un- attached individ- uals (thous- ands)	1950		1951		1953	
		After-tax family personal income		After-tax family personal income		After-tax family personal income	
		Aggregate (millions of dollars)	Average (dollars)	Aggregate (millions of dollars)	Average (dollars)	Aggregate (millions of dollars)	Average (dollars)
Under \$1,000.....	3,078	2,068	517	3,330	1,800	537	0.8
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	7,040	12,122	1,722	6,541	9,901	1,523	4.5
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	8,004	31,782	3,971	7,849	19,714	2,512	16.0
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	9,100	31,829	3,492	8,783	30,623	3,490	17.7
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	7,220	32,986	4,583	8,143	26,523	4,483	10.5
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	4,487	24,445	5,448	5,040	30,314	6,023	11.2
\$6,000-\$7,499.....	3,202	21,021	6,563	4,469	29,709	6,653	9.0
\$7,500-\$9,999.....	2,131	18,034	8,463	2,387	20,298	8,403	4.8
\$10,000-\$14,999.....	1,278	16,113	12,609	1,023	18,047	11,834	3.1
\$15,000-\$19,999.....	375	8,400	22,400	463	7,680	17,318	3.0
\$20,000 and over.....	405	12,984	32,056	442	12,783	31,195	0.3
Total.....	48,899	188,842	4,040	40,480	218,552	4,417	100.0